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FLOOR DEBATE

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thing that real estate is all about, and the principle benefits are to realtors and homebuilders who, as a consequence of the new jobs, build new homes, build new commercial retail establishments. There's kind of a nexus there, isn't there? Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Redfield.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I will draw your attention back to LB 40, which is the bill that is before us. The Beutler amendment is the next vote that we may have before us, and I do not support the amendment. I don't want to earmark it. I would take a few minutes of my own time to pursue a little further some of the questions that Senator Beutler and Senator Chambers expressed. Senator Beutler, I was looking at a number that might be an average. The package we're looking at starts very small, ramps up in later years, and so it's very hard to give you a dollar figure for one particular year because it will change as the projects are approved. Senator Chambers, I represented a district that has a large industrial area and there are a number of plants there between the interstate and L Street, and many of those companies had plants in other states. When the economic downturn came, what we found is that because of LB 775 and the requirements to maintain the threshold for not only investment but for jobs, then the choice they had was to either pay the recapture on those dollars or to maintain the jobs, and many times those companies laid off in other states in order to protect the jobs here in Nebraska. They also found that there may not have even been enough work for everyone, but they maintained the jobs in Nebraska because of LB 775. That's why I can stand here on the floor and tell you that in my corner of Omaha, I know that LB 775 has made a difference in the number of jobs that have been here. Can I tell you the last four years, during this last crunch from 9-11, has maintained jobs in Nebraska? No. We know that the job growth has only been about 500 a year in the Omaha metro area, and that's not enough for the growth of population. That's why we're talking about economic incentives. If we don't find a way to provide jobs for the Nebraskans that are here, they're going to leave us. If we